

Stormwater pollution poses significant risks to public health and impacts the quality of life of Los Angeles County residents. In turn, has an effect on local and regional economies throughout the County. This restricts our ability to maximize our capture of local stormwater, making our region more dependent on expensive and unreliable imported water supplies. Compliance with the most recent water quality regulations also poses significant financial challenges to municipalities and the unincorporated areas.

To highlight the severity of this issue, the County’s last Municipal Storm Water permit (MS4) identified only two Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for two pollutants. The new permit that went into effect in December 2012 includes TMDLs for 31 new pollutants. The Department of Public Works (DPW) estimates compliance with these requirements will cost the region tens of billions of dollars over the next 20 years. In just the unincorporated County areas, these requirements will cost us over \$225M in the next 5 years alone.

The Board recognized this issue almost one decade ago and took a leadership role on behalf of the region in implementing a solution. Through the proposed Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure, DPW has put together a technical program that establishes a regional, integrated approach to stormwater water quality challenges and recognizes the need for increased local efforts to capture stormwater to augment water supply. The measure allows for stormwater treatment through enhanced watershed management strategies promoting multi-benefits projects, which would add valuable recreation and green space to the region.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

Currently this program does not enjoy the full support of our cities or the public, and consequently should not move forward at this time. But we understand that this issue cannot be ignored, and we must continue to look for ways to refine and improve this proposal. The public should know exactly how their tax dollars will be utilized, including specific projects with detailed budgets. Fair credit should also be given to those entities with existing stormwater permits or that have already invested in infrastructure that captures and treats stormwater on their parcels. Finally, should this Board in the future decide to move forward with a new Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure, it must address these concerns and be put before the voters in a general election ballot and not done through a mail-in ballot.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors close the Protest Hearing and not proceed with the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure at this time.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board take the following actions:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board requesting that the Board work with DPW and the cities in the County to educate the public about stormwater pollution.
2. Instruct the CEO and DPW to continue to work with the business community, school districts, and non-profits to address their concerns, such as including a 30-year sunset date and making further refinements to the rate reduction program.
3. Direct the CEO to report back regarding the necessary steps the County must take should the Board decide to place this item on a general election ballot, and determine potential future election dates to ensure transparency to the public.
4. Instruct DPW to provide the Board with quarterly reports on the status of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's implementation and enforcement of the MS4 permit.
5. Instruct DPW to designate a staff person within the department to act as the Unincorporated Stormwater Manager. This person shall be responsible for reporting to the Board quarterly on stormwater compliance in the unincorporated areas including status of projects, budget expenditures and budget forecasting.

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